

105TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 589

To amend the Fair Housing Act, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 5, 1997

Mr. BILBRAY (for himself, Ms. HARMAN, Mr. HORN, Mr. WHITE, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. CUNNINGHAM, Mr. PACKARD, Mr. BAKER, Mr. HAYWORTH, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. LEWIS of California, Mr. KING, and Mr. DREIER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

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## A BILL

To amend the Fair Housing Act, and for other purposes.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Fair Housing Reform  
5       and Freedom of Speech Act of 1997”.

6       **SEC. 2. AMENDMENTS TO FAIR HOUSING ACT.**

7       (a) IN GENERAL.—The first sentence of section  
8       807(b)(1) of the Fair Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 3607(b)(1))  
9       is amended by inserting before the period the following:

1 “, including any restriction relating to the maximum num-  
 2 ber of unrelated persons permitted to occupy a dwelling,  
 3 or governing the proximity of dwellings to each other, in  
 4 connection with the occupancy of a dwelling by a convicted  
 5 felon, sex offender, or recovering drug addict, if the pur-  
 6 pose of the restriction is to restrict land use to single fam-  
 7 ily dwellings”.

8 (b) PROTECTION OF CERTAIN ACTIVITIES.—Title I  
 9 of the Fair Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 3601 et seq.) is  
 10 amended by adding at the end the following new section:

11 **“SEC. 821. PROTECTION OF CERTAIN ACTIVITIES.**

12 “Nothing in this Act shall be construed to apply to  
 13 any otherwise lawful activity engaged in by one or more  
 14 persons, including the filing or maintaining of a legal ac-  
 15 tion, that is engaged in solely for the purpose of—

16 “(1) achieving or preventing action by a govern-  
 17 mental entity or official; or

18 “(2) receiving an interpretation of any provision  
 19 of this Act in a court of competent jurisdiction.”.

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